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ABSTRACT

This book addresses the black-white achievement gap from an ethnographic, qualitative perspective. By focusing on middle class black students and documenting their experiences, it demonstrates that the problems black students encounter in school are much more pervasive than the literature and prevailing wisdom suggest and that class-based analyses are insufficient to account for them. There are 13 chapters in three parts. Part 1, "Black Academic Achievement and Its Explanations," includes (1) "Black-White Academic Achievement Gap"; (2) "Academic Disengagement in Shaker Heights"; and (3) "Explaining the Academic Gap: Conventional and Alternative Explanations. Part 2, "Societal and School Factors," includes (4) "Race Relations"; (5) "Pygmalion in History, Society, and School"; (6) "Leveling"; and (7) "Counselors, Teachers, and Discipline." Part 3, "Community Forces," includes (8) "Opportunity Structure: Schooling and Getting Ahead"; (9) "Collective Identity, Culture, and Language" (10) "Peer Pressures"; (11) "The Family"; (12) "Community Forces and Academic Disengagement: A Summary of Findings"; and (13) "Policy Implications." (Contains approximately 230 references.) (SM)

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